



Building workers in Buenos Aires have discovered the remains of an eighteenth century Spanish galleon. Archaeologists in Argentina are calling it one of the most important finds ever made in the country. Daniel Schweimler reports from Buenos Aires:

The foundations were being dug for **a luxury apartment block** being built in the renovated port area of Buenos Aires when workers **struck** oil - olive oil. Or at least eight ceramic jars which in the eighteenth century were used to transport olive oil to the Spanish colonies in Latin America.

Archaeologists were called and together they uncovered four **cannons**, **timbers** from the ship's hull and evidence that **the vessel** was probably sent to trade in leather. Archaeologist Marcelo Weissel said the discovery was unique in Argentina.

Work is now underway on finding out more. Early indications are that the ship sank in about seventeen-fifty. The mayor of Buenos Aires, Mauricio Macri, said the construction company and archaeologists would work together on what looks like being **a great treasure** for the whole city.

Towards the end of the eighteenth century Buenos Aires was becoming a **major** port city, as Spanish colonists began transporting silver from what is now southern Bolivia through the city to Europe. But **the waters** were often **treacherous** and pirates were **rampant**, leaving a trail of destruction waiting to be unearthed hundreds of years later.

Daniel Schweimler, BBC News, Buenos Aires

Vocabulary and definitions

a luxury apartment block	a big building consisting of a number of large and very comfortable flats
struck	here, found, discovered
cannons	large, powerful guns used in the past, firing heavy stone or metal balls
timbers	large pieces of wood used in the framework, or hull, of a wooden ship
the vessel	the ship
a great treasure	a very important and valuable find
major	here, very important and used a lot
the waters	here, the ocean near the city
treacherous	here, extremely dangerous
rampant	here, uncontrollable and getting worse

More on this story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/7805549.stm>

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/12/081231_argentina_galleon.shtml